

AMONG THE FLOWERS.

Beauties of the Horticultural Exhibit at the World's Fair.

Rare Plants from All Over the World—Under the Great Glass Dome—Fruits of Every Known Climate.

[Special Chicago Correspondence]

BOUT the most inviting spot at the world's fair grounds these spring days in the section given over to the gardens and the horticultural exhibit. After the long, severe winter which has just closed a sniff of the air which is already redolent of bursting buds and fresh foliage is indeed welcome and invigorating. Where but a few days ago was nothing but snowbanks there are now rows upon rows of plants, lined out to get their rootings for planting, and as far as the eye can reach there are beds and plots covered with the tender nurslings that are to beautify the neighborhood of Horticultural hall. Within the great hothouses countless numbers of pots and baskets, containing rare plants and flowers from almost every state in the union, are ranged along the walls awaiting their turn to be transplanted to the soil without. Here and there throughout the mammoth nursery huge palms rear their majestic plumes, and tender, clinging vines from tropical climes are being trained up the pillars and supports of the building, giving the beholder a foretaste of the rare treat in store for him when the summer season comes.

Of the thousands upon thousands of people who visit the grounds nowadays very few miss visiting the beauty spot of the fair. There is much to attract and interest in the great structures of the other departments, but nature is

greenhouses in the east, and it is not undue praise to say of him that he is unquestionably the best man for the place that could be found in the country to-day. Under his watchful eye the delicate leaves and tendrils unfold and through his careful nursing the frailest pets of the hot-house are brought up from the tiny shoot to the full-grown strength of maturity.

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During the whole period of the exposition there will be weekly displays of cut flowers on each Tuesday. The seasonal varieties of cut flowers will be as complete and as exhaustive as in the main departmental exhibits. Pansies in the spring and again 'pansies in the fall form the outer limits, between which the artistic skill of the designer will have an endless chain of beauty.

From the conservatories of George W. Childs there will come two car loads of caladiums—the finest collection in the world—which are to be in place as an exhibit on the nation's holiday, July 4. One exhibitor will send one hundred thousand dollars' worth of orchids, and among the famous orchid collectors who will exhibit may be mentioned Corning of Albany, Kimball of Rochester and Ames of Boston. Other connoisseurs in America and Europe will be represented. One of the brilliant displays will be the largest collection of cycadaceous plants ever brought together. The display of aquatic plants will be in the south court of the building.

The fruit display will be in the west curtains and the pavilions. This, too, will change according to seasons, and in some sections the kaleidoscopic effect will be more rapid than in the floral display. To maintain a constantly fresh and attractive display is the task of the department of pomology. Practically all the states will be represented by a fruit display of some kind, and individual exhibitors will be numerous. The leading fruit growers of the country will have special exhibits. Many of the states and several foreign countries will have handsome pavilions. Fruit will not be shown in great masses but in almost infinite varieties. Minnesota, New York, Maine and Oregon will have especially attractive displays.

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In citrus fruits there will be oranges, lemons, limes, etc., from Florida, California, Louisiana, Spain, Mexico, Italy and France and from South American countries. In tropical and subtropical fruits, such as bananas, pineapples, tamarins, figs and olives, there will be a liberal display from South America and from Florida. The latter is the only state which sends all fruits to the exposition free of charge.

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Mr. Thorpe was born in England and has spent fifty years of his busy life among plants and flowers. An ideal existence truly. He has had charge of some of the most extensive gardens and

Orleans and Paris. It is one thousand feet long, with an extreme width of two hundred and eighty-seven feet. The dome is one hundred and eighty-seven feet in diameter, with an interior height of one hundred and thirteen feet. The largest tree ferns, palms, bamboos and giant cacti are here exhibited. Front and rear curtains connect the dome with two end pavilions, forming two interior courts, each eighty-eight by two hundred and seventy feet. The front curtains have glass roofs and are devoted entirely to floriculture. The rear curtains are partly covered with glass, and will be mainly filled by the exhibit of green fruits. The end pavilions are for the wine exhibit, a portion of the fruit display. Orchids, dahlias, pelargoniums and flowering annuals will be among the principal features of the fall display.

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